WINTER LAND BIRDS IN FUERTEVENTURA

Blackbird 39
Bunting, Corn 56
Bustard, Hubara 14
Buzzard 8
Chiffchaff 45
Courser, Cream-coloured 16
Cuckoo, Great Spotted 20
Dove, Collared 18
Rock 18
Turtle 19
Eagle, Booted 3
Falcon, Barbary 12
Peregrine 11
Finch, Trumpeter 55
Flycatcher, Spotted 46
Goldfinch 52
Harrier, Hen 6
Marsh 5
Montague’s 7
Hoopoe 24
Kestrel 10
Kite, Black 4
Lark, Lesser Short-toed 27
Linnet
54
Osprey 2
Owl, Short-eared 22
Barn 21
Parakeet, Monk 25
Ring-necked 25
Partridge, Barbary 13
Pipit, Berthelot’s 28
Meadow 30

Red-throated 31
Tawny 32
Tree 29
Pigeon, Feral 18
Raven
49
Redwing 37
Robin 35
Sandgrouse, Black-bellied 17
Shrike, Great Grey 48
Siskin 53
Skylark 26
Sparrow, Spanish 51
Sparrowhawk 9
Starling 50
Stonechat, Fuerteventuran 36
Stone-curlew 15
Swift, Pallid 23
Plain 23
Thrush, Song 38
Tit, Blue 47
Vulture, Egyptian 1

Wagtail, Grey 34
White 33
Warbler, Bonelli’s 43
Garden 41
Sardinian 44
Spectacled 44
Willow 42
Whitethroat 40

L 55-65
W 155-170

Nest on cliffs

Food – carrion, offal at refuse tips

Note wedge-shaped tail, fingered wings
Juv dark brown reducing to light adult pattern over 5 years

Flight rather slow with deep wingbeats

Voice usually silent

EGYPTIAN VULTURE

Neophron percnopterus

Alimoche comun

Guirre

L 52-60
W 152-167

Breeds on freshwater lakes, also near coast by brackish water or even salt
Nest in top of pine tree

Food fish, caught in talons after dive

Hovers, tail spread, with heavy wingbeats over water, dives feet-first for fish

Voice During aerial display (undulating flight high up, feet dangling) whistles mournfully ‘u-**eelp** u-**eelp** u-**eelp**…’; alarm hoarse, sharp ‘kew-kew-kew…’

OSPREY

Pandion haliaetus

Aguila pescadora

guincho

L 42-51
W 110-135

Wooded areas, with mixture of open ground & hills or mountains…nests in trees

Food mammals, birds…caught on or near ground after spectacular stoop with wings folded

Small, sim buzzard but with 1 extra finger (6); flight eagle-like, straight course & fast, long glides; spread tail 4/5 or equal width of wing

Voice main call shrill ‘kli kli kli’; also buzzard-like ‘hiyaah’ & long series of ‘gü’

BOOTED EAGLE

Hieraaetus pennatus

Aguila Calzada

L 48-58
W 130-155

Social, often seen in groups.

Food fish, offal, refuse, sometimes picked up in harbours or by busy roads

Medium-sized, slightly-forked tail only visible if tail not spread, in wh case may be confused w Booted Eagle…but note B E is much lighter underneath

Voice fast, whinnying ‘pee-e-e-e-e’; also a Buzzard-like mewing call

BLACK KITE

Milvus migrans

Milano negro

L 43-55
W 115-140

Found by fresh water sources, nests in reedbeds

Food small mammals, birds, insects

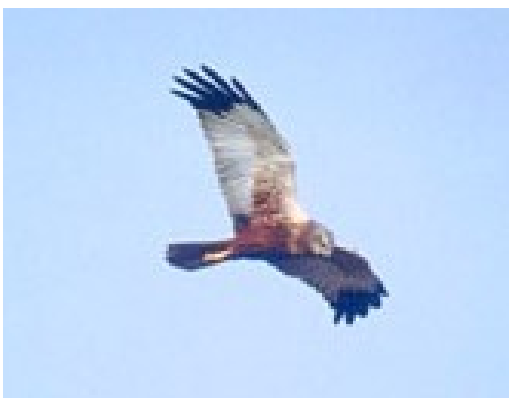
Larger then Buzzard, slimmer body, narrower wings & longer tail; soars w wings raised in shallow V, glides w ‘arm’ raised and level ‘hand’; also sim to Booted Eagle but less ‘fingered’ wing-tips & more rounded tail

Voice alarm rapid ‘quek-ek-ek-ek-ek’’ f thin piping repeated whistle ‘psee-ee’ when receiving food from m

MARSH HARRIER

Circus aeruginosus

Aguilucho lagunero



L 39-50
W 96-116

Open plains, bog, low bushes (nests on ground)

Food birds, small mammals

Long wings & tail; low flight w wings raised in shallow V when gliding; compare Marsh Harrier, wh has heavier build & flight, also diff plumage underneath; juv has rufous-yellow underparts

Voice alarm of f twittering ‘chit-it-it-it-et-it-et-…’; alarm of m ‘chek-ek-ek-ek’; f thin whistling ‘piih-eh’ when eceiving food from m.

HEN HARRIER

Circus cyaneus

Aguilucho palido

L 39-50
W 96-116

Open plains, bog, low bushes (nests on ground)

Food small birds & mammals, lizards, insects

Very long & narrow wings (unlike broader-winged Hen Harrier); slim body & narrow, long tail
Also sim to Hen Harrier but has black bands across secondaries (2 below, 1 above); juv strongly rufous underparts

Voice alarm rapid bouncing ‘chit-er chit-er chit-it-it-it’ (rather like Turnstone!)

MONTAGUE’S HARRIER

Circus pygargus

Aguilucho cenizo

L 46-58
W 110-132

Nest in steep-sided barrancos and cliffs

Food voles, birds, rabbits, insects, worms, reptiles etc

Often perches on posts Soars with fan-shaped spread tail, wings forward in shallow V; glides on flatter wings more compact tail; active flight with quick, stiff wingbeats
Juv has no tail bar

Voice very vocal for bird of prey with loud, mewing ‘piiiyay’, falling in pitch, given mainly in flight

BUZZARD

Buteo buteo

Ratonero comun

Aguililla

juvenile

L	29-34 m	35-41 f
W	58-65 m	67-80 f

Wooded areas, but often seen near human settlement

Food small birds

Short, broad, blunt-tipped wings & long tail, wh is always longer than width of wing & has 4-5 bars; typical flight a few quick wingbeats relieved by short glide or pigeon-quick wingbeats for ascent & brief glides for descent; flies low over ground, making surprise attacks, even pursuing small birds on foot under bushes

Voice mainly silent, main call rapid, chattering or cackling ‘kewkewkewkew…’

SPARROWHAWK

Accipiter nisus

Gavilan comun

L 31-37
W 68-78

Found in open country
Messy nest in hole in sides of barranca, tree, or building in hole or niche

Food voles, insects

Hovers with hanging, spread tail; flight with quite loose wingbeats & little gliding; wingtips can be rounded or spread in fingers; maybe confused w Sparrowhawk but more continuous flight w much less gliding

Voice mainly fast series of short, sharp notes, ‘kee-kee-kee-…’

KESTREL

Falco tinnunculus

Cernicalo vulgar

L	38-45 m	46-52 f
W	89-100 m	104-113 f

Coastal or lowland cliffs, also boggy areas

Food small- or medium-sized birds, caught in the air after quick horizontal pursuit or spectacular stoop from height w closed wings

Slate-grey above, underparts w fine but clear barring; black hood & broad moustachial stripe

Voice mostly silent away from breeding site; main call harsh, cackling, scolding ‘rehk rehk rehk…’ used for alarm & contact-call

PEREGRINE FALCON

Falco peregrinus

Halcon comun

L	33-37 m	36-39 f
W	76-86 m	89-98 f

Semi-desert w cliffs/small mountains

Food small birds, caught after horizontal pursuit or stoop from height with closed wings

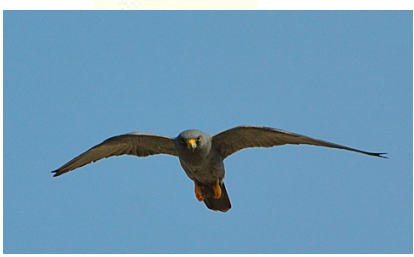
Sim to Peregrine Falcon but paler overall w less extensive barring of underparts; rufus nape; evenly barred, spread tail, may show dark terminal band on undertail

Voice as Peregrine Falcon but higher-pitched 'rehk rehk rehk…'

BARBARY FALCON

Falco pelegrinoides

Halcon tagarote



L 32-35

Breeds in many habitats
Nest in high grass or opuntias
Sedentary, gregarious, will run away quickly if disturbed; flies only if pressed, low with rapid beats and stiff-winged glides

Dark median crown-stripe

Food plant material & insects

Voice series of short, impure notes ‘tre tre tre tre tre tre **cheehche tre tre**…’ in trotting rhythm with a stumble; also ‘tra-**che**-**che**’ or upslurred ‘tshuuih’

BARBARY PARTRIDGE

Alectoris barbara

Perdiz moruna

L 55-65 (smaller in Fue)
W 125-151

Breeds Feb-Apr…difficult to see then
Shy- found in desert, also open watercourse with small bushes

Food omnivorous

Gait slow and deliberate if undisturbed but shy & will run if alarmed

Fuerte has rare race, smaller & darker above

Voice practically mute, young thin, piping notes

HUBARA BUSTARD

Clamydotis undulata

Avutarda hubara

Avutarda, jabara

L 38-45
W 76-88

Breeds on bare or sparsely vegetated ground
Nest is a bare scrape

Food mainly insects

Large yellow eye & black-tipped bill reveal when still
Most active dusk to dawn
Walks stealthily; runs with body held horizontal and head hunched back; distinctive in flight with strong black & white wing pattern, shallow beats of long, stiffly bowed wings

Voice rising, whistling ‘küü-**lii**e’ or ‘kur-li-**lii**’; alarm rapid ‘kü-vü-**vü**’; also thin ‘kiiiie’

STONE-CURLEW

Burhinus oedicnemus

Alcaravan comun

Pero-lui, Pedro-luis

L 24-27

Needs bare, flat terrain to accommodate ground-running behaviour, especially sandy desert

Sandy-buff plumage & long, pale legs, curved bill
Flight action flicking, dove-like, interspersed with short glides; in flight black outer wing and ‘flashing’ black underwing contrast with pale remainder (see pic)

Voice flight-call is subdued, ventriloquial ‘quett’

CREAM-COLOURED COURSER

Cursorius cursor

Corredor

Engana muchachos

L 35-40
W 70-75

Breeds on poorly-vegetated plains, ascends to higher levels; visits waterholes in morning, sometimes flying tens of miles
Wary & shy
Nest – lays eggs directly on ground

Big, sturdy with black belly easily seen in flight

Voice flight-call rolling, bubbling ‘chürr’r’**re-ka’** slowing down and dropping pitch at end; at close range with a musical overtone, at distance rather like a snorting horse; on rising high ‘chiiu’

BLACK-BELLIED SANDGROUSE

Pterocles orientalis

Ganga ortega

L 30-35 R & C
W 62-68 R
48-56 C

R breeds in caves or on steep cliffs, mostly on sea coasts, also in mountains
(R (Feral) is ubiquitous)
C needs trees for nesting
Juv C no collar

Food seed, vegetable matter, spilled grain (C)

Voice R coos a moaning ‘drru**oo**-u’ repeated several times, often getting quieter C noisy ‘krreair’ in conflict & on landing; song a trisyllabic coo, each syllable lower than previous ‘doo-**doooo**-do’… cuckoo-like afar

ROCK DOVE
(Feral Pigeon)

Columba livia
Paloma bravia
Paloma roquera, salvaje

COLLARED DOVE

Streptopelia decaocto
Tortola turca

L 25-27
W 49-55

Breeds in woodland & country with shrubs etc
Shy staying in tree canopy but may be spotted on telephone wires or foraging

Small, slim dove with fast fitful flight, slightly pitching when landing

Voice wing-clatter on take-off; song a deep, hard purring ‘turrrrr turrrrr turrrrr’ repeated several times

TURTLE DOVE

Streptopelia turtur

Tortola comun

L 35-39

Breeds in olive groves & sim, also svanna-like heathland w pine trees; nest parasite on crows (mostly Magpie)!

Food insects

Flies around a lot, frequently hops on ground w raised tail; plumage dark above w white spots, pale below; silvery-grey around ears & on crown (hint of a crest)

Voice noisy & loud; rattling cackling call ‘cherr-cherr-che-che-che-che’ or ‘ki-ki-ki krie-krie-krie…’poss recalling Turnstone; agitated amy give a nasal gruff ‘cheh’

GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO

Clamator glandarius

Crialo

L 33-39
W 80-95

Farmland, copses; nest hole in tree, building or ruin

Food voles, frogs, insects

Sedentary
Nocturnal & crepuscular
Hovers with feet dangling
E Canaries race: yellow-orange underparts

Voice f purring shriek, repeated; alarm, often in flight, shrill hoarse squeal; song 2 sec ‘shreeee’, repeated

BARN OWL

Tyto alba

Lechuza comun

Coruja, lechuzo

L 33-40
W 95-105

Food mainly voles

Partly diurnal; small rounded head, wings long, narrow & rather pointed; ear tufts minute & rarely seen; pale face w black around yellow eyes; throat dark & streaked (lighter below); flight buoyant & wavering, wingbeats rowing in slow-motion fashion, wings rigid-looking, glides freely; often perches on ground

Voice m hoarse, baleful '**cheh**-ef'; alarm harse 'chef-chef-chef; song in flight subdued deep hoots 'uh-uh-uh-uh..'

SHORT-EARED OWL

Asio flammeus

Lechuza campestre

L	14-15.5	Pl
	16-18	Pa
W	36-39	Pl
	39.44	Pa

Pl breeds in Canaries
Nest in cavities in buildings

Food insects taken in flight

Pa has larger, whiter throat patch
Both otherwise pale grey-brown
Pl has pointed wingtips…Pa has blunt

Voice both shrill, ringing screams ‘srriirr’, Pl up- & down-slurred but Pa more clearly down-slurred & drier

PLAIN SWIFT

Apus unicolor
Vencejo unicolor
Aburrion, andorina

PALLID SWIFT

Apus pallidus
Vencejo palido
Andorina

L 25-29 (of wh bill 4-5)
W 44-48

Breeds in farmland and open country with bushes etc
Nests in hole in tree or building

Food mostly worms & insects

Wary, spends time on ground
Crest erect on landing

Voice high noisy ‘scheer’ when agitated; dry rolling ‘cherr’ in mate/brood feeding; song trisyllabic hollow, muffled ‘oop-oop-oop’ repeated, carries although weak at close range

HOOPOE

Upapa epops

Abubilla

Tabobo, pu-pu, abobito

L	28-31	M
	39-43	R-N
W	42-48	R-N

M breeds in Canaries

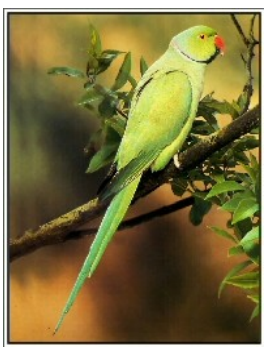
Food insects caught in flight

M has light grey forehead, throat & breast, long green tail, bluer wings
R-N mostly green, with red collar, dark brown wingtips
Both have very long tails eg R-N's is 22-26
Bill M yellowish, R-N red
Eye M dark w white surround
R-N yellow w orange-red bare surrounding skin

Voice both v noisy loud squawking 'kyik kyik kyiek'

MONK PARAKEET
Myiopsitta monachus
Cotorra argentina

RING-NECKED PARAKEET (Rose-Ringed)
Psittacula krameri
Cotorra de kramer



L 16-18

Large flocks may congregate on open land

Breast buff streaked, belly white unstreaked; m can erect blunt crest; seen on ‘fields’ & by roads…when approached will first squat then catapult up, retreating a short distance over ground w fluttering wings & half-spread lowered tail, wh has white sides; sings in flight, climbing higher to a position difficult to detect…starts descent singing, but silent when landing w folded wings

Voice calls dry, rolling ‘preet’ & sim…song starts late winter

SKYLARK

Alauda arvensis

Alondra comun

L 13-14.5

Dry plains, by salines & on desert-like steppe

Hind-claw long & straight
Raises crown feathers to crest.
Song-flight often drifting around w fluttering wingbeats & partly-spread tail, in suitable winds now & then shifting to clearly slower wingbeats

Voice dry, trilling or buzzing ‘drrrrd’, falling in pitch or slowing at end; song rich & varied, some phrases short w dry trills & ‘frizzling’ fast pace

LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK

Calandrella rufescens

Terrera marismena

Calandria

L 13-14.5

Resident in Canaries on dry plains, stony & sandy terrain w low vegetation
Nests in holes, or vegetation

Small, legs seem placed far back; slender pink bill; adult head grey & dirty white, juv brown above (brown, marked body back); pale eye-ring, dark eye-stripe & moustachial stripe; breast clear streaks on white, no buff tones
Stands with 'bobbing' tail
Rapid mouse-like dashes, prefers to run not fly away

Voice 'tsrie' & softer 'chup'
Undulating song-flight 'tshilp… tschilp…' (4-7 times) also ratting 'tsivirr, tsivirr…'

BERTHELOT’S PIPIT

Anthus Berthelotti

Bisbita caminero

Caminero, chilin, chirringo, correcaminos

L 14-16

Heavy bill, bold markings, short, curved hindclaw sometimes seen; legs & bill-base pink; often forages on ground but shy & if startled
will fly up & perch in tree etc;
song-flight typical starts from tree, climbs up, parachutes down on rigid wings, legs dangling; pumps tail downwards when perched

Voice call long, drawn-out hoarse ‘spihz’; alarm discreet, penetrating, clear ‘sütt’; sings all through day, jaunty loud trills etc ‘zit-zit-zit-zit cha-cha-cha-cha sürrrrrrr **siiii**-a tvet-tvet-tvet-tvet **si**va **sii**va **siii**va **sii**hva cha-cha-cha’

TREE PIPIT

Anthus trivialis

Bisbita arboreo

L 14-15.5

Very sim to Tree Pipit but normally ground-dwelling (although may be seen on trees & telephone wires) & has slimmer bill (no pink base), hind-claw long & not so curved; flight typical first climbing w rapid wingbeats then dropping on stiff wings

Voice call on rising w jerky springing flight is a few thin ‘ist ist ist’ notes; alarm tremulous ‘sitt-itt’ or ‘tirri’; song rapidly thin piercing notes ‘zi zi zi zi zi zi zi zi zi zi zü-zü- zü-zü- zü-zü- zü-zü-svisvisvisvisvi **tüü tüü tüü tüü** tii-svia’; when perched repeated ‘zi zi zi zi…’

MEADOW PIPIT

Anthus pratensis

Bisbita comun

L 14-15

Sim size & shape to Meadow Pipit but heavily streaked above, ad has rusty-red throat (f less prominent) & above eye & on forehead; legs pinkish; juv has no red, buff-white instead, also whitish eye-ring & strong black wedge shape on lower throat- side

Voice call a fine, drawn-out squeaky ‘pssiih’; alarm ‘chüpp’; song rhythmic theme w ringing-tone ‘svü-svü-svü-**svü**, svü-svü-svü-**svü**, svü-svü-svü-**svü**, psiü psiiü psiiiüh sürrrrrr wi-wi-wi-wi tsvü-tsvütsvü’

RED-THROATED PIPIT

Anthus cervinus

Bisbita gorgirroco

L 15.5-18

Large, slim w fairly uniform sandy-coloured plumage; dark stripe fr eye to bill; relatively short hindclaw; juv crown to back heavily dark-patterned

Voice call a full ‘tshilp’ or shorter ‘chüp’; song simple, usually deliverd in undulating song-flight, 2 or 3 syllables w ringing tone, often stressed & drawn out at end, slowly repeated in time w the peaks in flight eg ‘tsir**liih**…tsir**liih**… tsir**liih**…

TAWNY PIPIT

Anthus campestris

Bisbita campestre

L 16.5-19

Attracted to bare areas like golf courses, flat rocks, roofs where, fast-running, it can see & catch insects

Slender w long, narrow black & white tail wagging up & down; walks w jerking head movements, rushes after prey, pulling up suddenly w tail pumping excitedly; black crown & nape, dark grey mantle; bib black; wings white underneath in flight

Voice call easy to recognise 2 or 3 syllable, cheerful ‘tsli-**vitt**’ or ‘zi-ze-**litt**’; normal song plain & simple w few twittery notes, pause & repeat

WHITE WAGTAIL

Motacilla alba alba

Lavandera blanca comun

L 17-20

Breeds in scattered pairs on vegetated shores of water
Nest in rock crevice etc

Constantly pumps long tail, rocking whole rear end; yellowish vent and rump; legs brownish-pink (NB as other wagtails have black); ad m has black bib, ad f grey or whitish bib (juv m sim)
Undulating flight shows broad white wing-bar

Voice call sharp high-pitched ‘zi-zi’ or grating ‘zrrie’ ; alarm repeated ‘sü**iht**’ often interspersed w call; song short, mechanical sharp ‘ziss-ziss-ziss-ziss’ poss mixed w higher ‘si si si siü’

GREY WAGTAIL

Motacilla cineria

Lavandera cascadena

L 12.5 –14

Food insects, snails, worms
Wary but not shy;droops wings, hops rapidly on ground w feet together, curtseys & cocks short tail; perches motionless, makes a sudden movement, stands still again & so on; juv plumage all finely spotted, no red bib

Voice call a short, hard ‘tick’; if nervous this is protracted into a long rapid series ‘tick-ick-ick-ick…’; alarm thin & sharp ‘tsiiih’; nocturnal thin, hoarse ‘tsi’; song begins w few high, drawn-out thin notes, then drops pitch & speeds up w fast runs of trembling, clear squeaky notes

ROBIN
Erithacus rubecula
Petirrojo europo

L 11-12.5

Resident - breeds only on Fuerteventura on barren slopes & in ravines w bushes and trees

Food insects

Bill long thin darkish grey
Ad m brown-black head, white half-collar, breast orange-buff, small white wing patch
Ad f paler & greyer than m, head brown-grey, faintly spotted
Juvs lighter & duller than ads

Voice quiet usually, alarm a short whistle & throaty ‘vist trak-trak, vist…’; song monotonous twittering

FUERTEVENTURAN STONECHAT

Saxicola dacotiae

Tarabilla canaria

Caldereta

male

Female

L 19-23

Shy; small, short-tailed, compact w fairly big head; whitish stripes above eye & beneath cheek (often best identification at distance); rusty-red flanks and under-wing in flight

Voice call on migration protacted, indrawn ‘stüüüf’; also a nasal ‘gack’; alarm hoarse rattling scold ‘tret-tret-tret-tret-…’; song varies w individuals but constant for each one…usually short verses, w 3-6 sec intervals, consisting of loud section followed by soft squeaky twitter

REDWING

Turdus ilacus

Zorzal alirrojo

L 20-22

Food snails, insects, worms

Small, compact, fairly short-tailed; brown above & yellowish-white or white below, densely sprinkled w black spots; head not striped

Voice call discreet fine, sharp ‘zit’; alarm an excited series of ‘electrical scolding ‘tix-ix-ix-ix…’; song loud & proclaiming, strongly varied, often squeaky & shrill cascades of notes, repeated 2-4 times eg ‘kückli**vi** kückli**vi**, tixi tixi tixi, **pii**-eh, trrü-trrü- trrü tixi**fix**, chü-chü-chü, ko-ku-ki**klix** ko-ku-ki**klix**…’

SONG THRUSH

Turdus philomelos

Zorzal comun

L 23.5-29

Food earthworms, insects, berries

M is all black, yellow eye-ring & bill (poss darker in winter); f is sooty-brown, w diffuse mottling on breast, bill dark & yellowish; juv sim to f but w sm pale spots on upperparts; does not flock like Starling & has longer tail; often makes quick, 2-footed bounds, stands still,then repeats

Voice noisy; calls: deep ‘pok’ ; on migration quiet fine rolling ‘srrri’; when agaitated straight ‘tsiih’; hard-clacking ‘chack-ack-ack…’; alarm high ‘pli-pli-pli-pli…’; song is well-known delivered fr roof/tree

BLACKBIRD

Turdus merula

Mirlo comun

male

female

L 13-15

Food insects

Big, sturdy & long-tailed; bill strong w paler base; legs yellow-brown; m has grey head, white eye-ring & throat; iris reddish-ochre; f sim but brownish head; often sings fr bushtop, wire or in short ascending songflight

Voice call a hoarse ‘vaihd vaihd vaihd’ w slightly lilting, nasal tone; alarm hoarse drawn-out ‘chaihr’; song at perch characteristic…short, fast verse w scratchy, gruff voice delivered in jolty rhythm ‘**take** it to**day**, **take** it too?’; in song-flight more drawn-out

WHITETHROAT

Sylvia communis

Curruca zarcera

L 13-14.5

Food insects

Shy & discreet, diff to see other than briefly; olive brown-grey, w no obvious features; bill thick & stubby; legs grey & strong

Voice call heard fr foliage w/o seeing bird a cackling series of nasal, thick clicks ‘chek, chek, chek, …’ tempo quickening w bird’s unease; song beautiful, 3-8 sec-long, verses of rapid, rather deep notes, one moment thrush-like & the next harsher, not forming a clear melody but shuttling irresolutely up & down…sounds like rippling brook

GARDEN WARBLER

Sylvia borin

Curruca mosquitera

L 11-12.5

Not shy; lively & restless, flitting about in shrubs in search of insects; small neat build, w thin legs & pointed bill; legs brownish-pink; yellowish-white on throat & breast; sim to Chiffchaff but lighter legs & darker eye-stripe, also more yellow above eye & on throat

Voice call soft whistle, disyllabis & upslurred '**hu**itt'; song frequently repeated soft whistling, somewhat descending verse about 3 sec long eg 'sisi-**vüy**- **vüy**- **vüy** svi-svi-vi tuuy tuuy tuuy si-si-**sviiy**-sü'; recognised by delightfully sweet voice w softly inflected notes

WILLOW WARBLER

Phylloscopus trochilus

Mosquitero musical

L 10.5-12

Little smaller than Willow Warbler, w whitish underparts & no obvious yellow on throat, breast or belly; legs brown; has yellowish rump (often concealed by wings) & yellowish-green on edges of wings & tail-feathers; unbroken pale eye-ring & light-grey ear coverts give ‘pale’ face look

Voice call distinctly disyllabic whistled ‘hü-**if**’; song a simple repitition of one high note eg ‘svi-svi-svi-svi-svi-svi-svi-svi’; voice is silvery & laughing; may hear ‘vivivivivivivi’ sim to Blue Tit

BONELLI’S WARBLER

Phylloscopus bonelli

Mosquitero papialbo

L 12-13 Sp
13-14 Sa

Sp breeds in low bushes & scrub…heaths or saltflats
Sa in tall bushes or gardens
Food insects

Sp pale eye-ring round red orbital ring; legs yellow-brown; shy but seen in open

Sa red-brown eye-ring (darker on m); m dark head cap, f grey; legs yellow-brown flicks wings & tail, often crouches, not shy

Voice Sp dry ‘drr’ often repeated viz rattlesnake; Sa call loud ‘tseck’ or ‘tü-**trru** tü-**trru…’** Both warble w whistle inserted

SPECTACLED WARBLER

Sylvia conspicillata
Curruca tomillera
Zarzalero, chirrera, tarraz

SARDINIAN WARBLER

Sylvia melanocephala
Curruca cabecinegra
Chorrero, ratonero, capirollo, capirote de ojos de fuego

L 10-12

Breeds in woodland with shrub layer

Food insects

Always on the go, fluttering in foliage, smallest may hover; not shy
Sim Willow Warbler but legs dark, fine darkish bill, dark eye-stripe, white lower eye-crescent, also may flick tail downwards, wh W W does not

Voice call soft whistled ‘hü**itt**’; song explosive monotonous hurried ‘tchip’

CHIFFCHAFF

Phylloscopus collybita

Mosquitera comun europeo

Hornero, Chivita

L 13.5-15

Food insects, caught in the air fr perch in dashing foray

Medium-small, greyish-brown, rather slim; head largish w rounded crown in profile; legs black, short; breast streaked (juv has spotted upperparts); sits upright, flicking tail, watching for insects; flight fast & agile; can hover having left perch before gliding or making long sweeping dive

Voice vocal but unobtrusive & primitive; call a short, shrill ‘zee’; alarm call-like note followed by short, dry clicking ones ‘eez-tk-tk’; song simple quiet high squeaky notes, mixed w short trills

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

Muscicapa striata

Papamoscas gris

L 10.5-12

Breeds in trees in towns
Nest in hole or nestbox

Food insects, seeds, nuts

Often seen hanging upside down at tips of twigs
Head blue-black in Canaries

Voice main call fast high ‘sisisüdu’ last syllable lower, can be just ‘sisisi’; alarm scolding ‘ker’r’r’r’r’rek-ek-**ek**’; song couple of long drawn-out notes followed by lower silvery trill ‘siiih, siiih, si-sürrr’ or 2 bursts of ‘si-si-sürr’

BLUE TIT

Parus caeruleus

Herrerillo comun

Alegria Mahareno

L 22-26

Variety of habitats, likes lookout posts if open country
Nest in thick bush

Food insects, lizards, small rodents, small birds

Scans from exposed perch, jerks tail sideways, flies in deep undulations for long distances, can hover
Sexes similar

Voice call long drawn-out trill ‘prrrih’; anxiety hoarse ‘vaihk, vaihk, vaihk’; song quiet, simple phrase eg squeaky double note or various short notes followed by hoarse trill repeated rhythmically once every 1-3 sec

GREAT GREY SHRIKE

Lanius excubitor meridionalis

Alcaudon real meridional

Alcairon

L 54-67 NB > Buzzard
W 115-130

Breeds in deserted woods, uplands & on coastal cliffs
Nest on inaccessible cliff-edge or tree; pairs for life

Food omnivorous

Thick bill, often shaggy throat feathering when singing or flying
Flight silhouette long, narrowish wings, with
fingered, long narrow hand, tail-tip wedge-shaped
Soars w flat/lowered wings

Voice loud, clanging ‘korrp’ often repeated 3-4 times; alarm faster ‘krack-krack-krack’

RAVEN

Corvus corax canariensis

Cuervo

L 19-22

Large flocks forage on ‘fields’, shoreline seaweed etc

Compare w Blackbird - feathers have metallic violet & green sheen, entire plumage densely spotted w yellowish-white spots, tail is short, legs are brownish-pink, bill is long & pointed & dark in winter; it does not make 2-footed hops but walks w jerky, energetic movements

Voice rich repertoire; take-off & in flight short buzzing ‘chürrr’; song has loud glissando whistles, soft, knocking sounds, squeaks & fine imitations of other birds

STARLING

Sturnus vulgaris

Estornino pinto

L 14-16

Breeds near man or in shrubbery or by water
Nest closed, made of straw or twigs often in cavities in buildings or in shrubs

Food seed and insects

Ad m in picture, f looks like House Sparrow, no black bib or white cheek & paler bill

Voice high metallic chirping & chattering, can be fast & monotonous series ‘chi**li**-chi**li**-chi**li**-…’

SPANISH SPARROW

Passer hispaniolensis

Gorrion moruno

Pajaro pollo, Palmero, Pajaro de pozo

L 12-13.5

Breeds in low-lying mixed woodland, pine or gardens
Nest open, basket-shaped in tree crown

Food seeds, notably thistle

Sexes alike; bill very long, pointed & white

Voice call trisyllabic, skipping & cheery ‘ticke**litt**’, sometimes ‘litt’ or ‘te**litt**’; song quiet, (rather like Siskin’s) rapid trills, mewing notes & twittering sequences always interwoven with call-note or long series of ‘te**litt-**te**litt-**te**litt-‘**

GOLDFINCH

Carduelis carduelis

Jilguero

Pajaro pinto, Pintado

L 11-12.5

Often on flocks in winter

Small & neat, small head & short tail; m has black crown & bib in winter, f retains grey-green crown & white w yellowish-green tinge, streaked breast & rump

Voice 2 similar disyllabic whistled calls , 1 descending the other rising, 'ti**lu**' & 'tlu**ih**'; a stifled, rattling call 'tetete' may be heard fr flying bird; song is flowing series of twittering & trilling notes w traces of mimicry, now & then broken by a drawn-out choking or wheezing note

SISKIN

Carduelis spinus

Lugano euroasiatico

L 12.5-14

Favours gorse & thick bushes

Slim w long tail & short, grey bill; ad m red on forehead & breast, uniform grey nape & brown back when perched; f & juv (1st winter) no red, streaked breast & crown
Restless & active, often rises in hopping flight only to drop down again soon

Voice flight-call dry, slightly nasal, bouncing ‘tigg-**itt**’ or ‘tett-ett-**ett**’, uttered w intensity on rising; song usually ‘on low heat’ w verses short & well-spaced; common elements in song (plus the call) are ‘pi**uu**’, ‘trrrüh’ & ‘tu-ki-**yüü**’

LINNET

Carduelis cannabina

Pardillo comun

Millero, Colorado, Linacero

male

L 11.5-13

Breeds in desert but water must be w/in flying distance
Nest on ground in crevice or under vegetation

Food seeds

Ad f & m winter pale grey yellow-brown w some pink tinge, legs light pink and plumage subdued (note: Ad m summer thick red bill, pinkish legs and rump etc)
Juv no pink

Voice call short jolting ‘ahp’ with lilting or discordant tone, often repeated; song nasal, drawn-out buzzing note, a loud hoarse buzz ‘aaaaaahp’ as toy trumpet

TRUMPETER FINCH

Bucanetes githagineus

Camachuelo trompetero

Pajaro moro, Pajaro piano, Pispo

L 16-19

Breeds in open farmland
Nest in tussock or low bush

Food grass seeds favoured

Social, seen in small flocks
Needs elevated songposts
Bill stout; buff underparts, often irregular dark patch on breast; legs and bill-side yellowish-pink; m & f sim
Short flight ponderous w legs dangling; longer distances more undulated flight

Voice call metallic ‘tsritt’ or short clicking ‘bitt’ / ‘bt’bt’bt…’; song brief repeated accelerating verse ‘tück tuck-zick-zik-zkzkzkzrississss’

CORN BUNTING

Miliaria calendra

Triguero